

Serial No. : 10/772,498
Filed : February 5, 2004

REMARKS

In the office action, the examiner rejected Claims 1, 12, 15, 16, 25, 27 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sheha et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0036848). The examiner indicated that Claims 2-11, 13, 14, 17-24, 26, 28 and 29 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, the applicant has amended the claims to more clearly specify the features of the present invention.

More specifically, the applicant has added the limitation of "the modified distance is a combination of a drive length on the route from the user position to a reference point defined on the route and a straight-line length from the reference point to the POI" to Claim 1 and Claim 16, respectively. The newly added feature to Claims 1 and 16 are fully supported by the disclosure of the present application, for example, from page 24, line 32 to page 25, line 8, which reads as follows:

Figures 11A-11B show the concept of the preferred embodiment of the present invention. This method utilizes the region circles of Figure 9B in which both (1) a distance along the calculated route from the user position to a center of particular region circle and (2) a straight-line distance from the center to the particular POI, are used to determine the modified distance to the POI. This approach is able to avoid the problem of Figure 10B because the distance (drive length) along the route is included as one parameter of the distance calculation. Further, in the method of the present invention, the distances of the POIs can be

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determined in the order that the user can actually see the POIs.

Because the distances for determining the order of listing the POIs are modified in the specific manner defined in Claims 1 and 16, the POIs are listed in the order that the user actually sees them when moving along the route to the destination while avoiding the problem associated with a special situation such as shown in Figure 10B.

The cited Sheha et al. reference discloses a system and method for searching and retrieving location information associated with one or more points of interests, whereby the search criteria can be dependent upon the location of a point of interest with respect to the real-time position of the user, and any preferences or search restrictions selected by the user, such as rating information about the point of interest. In the office action, the examiner stated that the cited Sheha et al. reference teaches the modified distance which is exemplified by a distance of the POI calculated by a "door-to-door" direction calculation. The cited Sheha et al. reference refers to the door-to-door direction calculation in the paragraph [0069] as follows:

[0069] In one embodiment, for each indexed POI, the results preferably provide the user with the POI's name 1001, telephone number 1005, professional critic's review 1006, individual user's reviews 1004, and a link to initiate a 'door-to-door' driving direction calculation 1101 with display 1100 (FIG. 11). In this embodiment, the search results display 1000 provides the user with the most highly rated POIs in a given region based on the user's selected preferences and taking into account all other users' ratings. In this present embodiment, the user can navigate the links, similar to an HTML web page

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in a web browser, by clicking on the appropriate links, such as using an icon pointer 1007 to initiate those links.

The description in the quote above suggests that the system of the cited Sheha et al. reference allows the user to link to initiate the door-to-door driving direction calculation. However, throughout the description of the cited Sheha et al. reference, no further explanation is given regarding the door-to-door driving direction calculation. The applicant does not understand the examiner's interpretation as to why the "door-to-door driving direction calculation" is the same as the modified distance of the present invention. Nevertheless, the applicant has amended Claims 1 and 16 to more specifically define the modified distance as noted above. As defined in Claims 1 and 16, the modified distance is a combination of a drive length on the route from the user position to a reference point defined on the route and a straight-line length from the reference point to the POI. Such a specific way of modifying the distance to the POI is not shown or suggested by the cited Sheha et al. reference.

Since the essential feature of the present invention is not shown or suggested by the cited Sheha et al. reference, the applicant believes that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) is no longer applicable to the present invention.

In this opportunity, the applicant has amended the specification to correct minor errors therein and to more clearly

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describe the invention. This is to verify that no new matter has been introduced by the amendment.

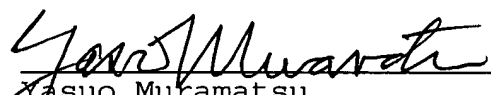
Also in this opportunity, the applicant has submitted concurrently herewith a request for approval of drawing changes in which a "Prior Art" legend is added to Figures 1A-1H as marked by red ink. The applicant has also submitted a replacement sheet for the amended drawings.

In view of the foregoing, the applicant believes that Claims 1-30 are in condition for allowance, and accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests that the present application be allowed and passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

MURAMATSU & ASSOCIATES

Dated: 11/28/05

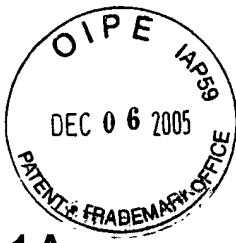
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IN THE DRAWINGS

The applicant has submitted concurrently herewith a request for approval of drawing changes in which a "Prior Art" legend is added to Figures 1A-1H. The applicant has also submitted a replacement sheet for the amended drawing.



Prior Art

Fig. 1A

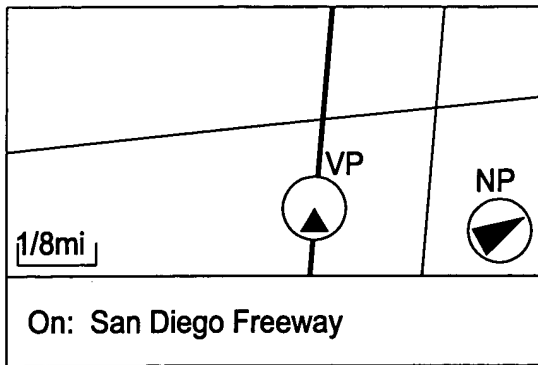


Fig. 1B

Dest	Find Destination by
	Address
	Intersection
	Point of Interest
	Map Cursor
	Recent Route
	Address Book
	Today's Plan

Fig. 1C

Dest	Find Point of Interest by
	Place Name
	Place Type

Fig. 1D

Dest	Select Category
	ATM
	BANK
	GAS STATION
	HOSPITAL
	MOVIE THEATER
	RESTAURANT
	VETERINARIAN

Fig. 1E

Dest	Select Name
Genkai	15435 Jeffrey Rd. Irvine, CA (949) 786-3420
Pizza Hut	
Genaki	
Hard Rock Cafe	
Sushi Boy	

Fig. 1F

Confirm Route
Genkai
15435 Jeffrey Rd. Irvine, CA
(949) 786-3420
By Quickest Route Method
OK to Proceed
Options

Fig. 1G

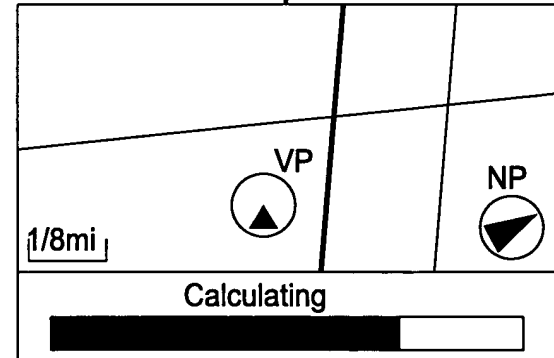


Fig. 1H

